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From: Ham-Policy Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-policy@ucsd.edu>
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To: Ham-Policy

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Today's Topics:

Autopatch: Foreign Language ?

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Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

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(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-policy".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Fri, 05 Mar 93 14:36:27 GMT
From: ftpbox!mcdchg!laidbak!tellab5!balr!ttd.teradyne.com!news@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Autopatch: Foreign Language ?
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

In article <1184@arrl.org>, lhurder@arrl.org (Luck Hurder KY1T) writes:
> In rec.radio.amateur.policy, mcovingt@aisun3.ai.uga.edu (Michael Covington)
writes:
>>In article <93058.115809AXH113@psuvm.psu.edu> Azmi Hashim <AXH113@psuvm.psu.edu>
writes:
>>>Is it legal to use foreign language on the air while using autopatch.
>>
>>Yes. I have never heard of telephone companies objecting to foreign
>>languages, and the FCC certainly doesn't.
>>
>>Hams must give their call signs in English.
>>
>
>
> Technically, yes. But what the fellow's original question failed to
> address is the matter of practicality. Here's why that's an important
> consideration that would certainly keep ME from using a foreign language

> on an autopatch.
>
> An autopatch -- except to a person being capable of being a control
> operator -- constitutes third party traffic. And -- guess what? --
> a human control operator MUST be present at the local or remote
> control point whenever third party traffic is involved.
>
> If I'm driving down the road and decide to bring up the local
> patch, should I assume that the control operator knows Swahili and
> then suddenly conduct my third party traffic conversation in
> that language? Of course not. I'm putting his license (and his
> wallet!) in jeopardy by doing that. I wouldn't even consider it.
>
> The response to Azmi's question then, should most properly be "You
> might get away with it, but it's asking one heck of a lot of your
> fellow amateur, and might in fact get him in more trouble than it
> could possibly be worth".
>

On the other hand, in South Florida and South Texas, there are a number of repeaters that cater to large numbers of Spanish Speaking hams. These repeaters are sponsored and Control Op'd by Spanish Speaking Hams and it's not at all uncommon to hear Autopatches taking place in Spanish. In fact most all of the activity on the repeater takes place in Spanish.

This is perfectly Legal. The only legal question is "Can the Control Operator understand the content of the autopatch so that he/she can intervene if the content of the autopatch is not legal". If this is the case, then the 'patch' can take place in any language.

Admittedly, if it takes place in Swahili or some other language that's not well known, a recording might keep you out of trouble later :-).

John Rice - K9IJ		"Did I say that ?" I must have, but It was
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End of Ham-Policy Digest V93 #59
